

Dredging would close Oakland muni golf course for up to seven years

OAKLAND, Calif. — "Here's Mud in Your Eye," city and port officials seem to be saying to Galbraith Golf Course patrons.

They plan to dump one million cubic yards of bay mud on the 18-hole, municipal course. This would shut down play from five to seven years while the bay mud dries.

Oakland port officials then would be responsible for developing a new golf course on the site.

Oakland officials contend the Bay channels must be dredged to 42 feet to accommodate the latest generation of cargo ships, and the Galbraith site is the port's best option. Large ships now must wait for high tide to dock and unload.

Dredging would generate about 5.7 million cubic yards of mud.

Eighty percent would be dumped at an ocean site 50 miles off the coast. The rest? Get ready, Galbraith!

Galbraith operators Howard Ransom and Hugh McKay hope for a compromise that would make part of the 130-acre site available for disposal, but would permit a portion to remain open to golfers.

They've proposed a system of ponds and filters for processing the dredged materials, thereby keeping the golf course in operation.

Port officials believe this will

not work because the golf course is built over a former garbage dump

Ransom suggests that city officials have a hidden agenda that includes removing McKay and himself as operators of the municipal course

While the verbal mud-slinging is being waged, the Army Corps of Engineers says it needs a final decision this month or the dredging, scheduled to begin in 1995, could be delayed.

Nervous neighbors sue Minn. course

MINNEAPOLIS — The ninth hole at the neighboring Grassy Creek Executive Golf Course is far more offensive than the 19th to neighbors Randy and Kristi Phillips.

Their home adjoining the ninth has been pelted by errant golf balls, and their car windshield broken, say the Phillips. Because of misfired tee shots, they are afraid to let their two small children play in the yard.

The Phillips are suing Donald E. Hill, who acquired course ownership in 1990, shortly before a developer started building and selling houses on surrounding property.

Randy Phillips said the house was bought in the winter, therefore the couple was not aware the golf balls could cause so many problems. Other neighbors experienced similar problems. "When you have to come home from work every night and do a damage check, it's just not fair," he added.

In addition, he and his wife have been subjected to abuse by golfers who insist on going into their yard to retrieve balls or use their property as an extension of the golf course.

Efforts to sell their house failed because of golf ball damage, they said.

WHAT THIS MACHINERY DOES TO YOUR GRASS, PRIMO

Second-class postage paid at Yarmouth, Maine, and additional mailing office. *Golf Course News* (ISSN 1054-0644) is published monthly by United Publications, Inc., 38 Lafayette St., P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Phone number is 207-846-0600.

The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material or prices quoted in the newspaper. Contributors are responsible for proper release of proprietary classified information. Copyright 1994 by United Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole and in part, without the written permission from the publisher is expressly prohibited.

Reprints and permission to reprint may be obtained from Managing Editor, *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096. Back issues, when available, cost \$5 each within the past 12 months, \$10 each prior to the past 12 months. Back issue orders must be paid in advance either by check or charged to American Express, Visa or MasterCard.

Golf Course News is distributed in the U.S. without charge to qualified personnel of golf course facilities and to golf course builders, developers and architects. Subscriptions to Canadian golf facilities cost \$25 annually; other paid subscriptions to the U.S. and Canada cost \$45. All foreign subscriptions cost \$125 annually to cover air delivery. All payments must be made in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. **For subscriber services, please call 215-788-7112.** Send address changes to *Golf Course News*, P.O. Box 3047, Langhorne, Pa. 19047-3047.

